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The Institute For Policy Studies Turns 20

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BODY:

In the 20 years since its birth, the Institute for Policy Studies, a leftist think tank, has enthusiastically weathered conspiracy indictments, telephone surveillance and the distinction of winning a place on the White House "enemies" list during the Nixon years. The FBI even rummaged through its garbage one day.

But last night IPS founders Richard Barnet and Marcus Raskin might have faced their toughest go-around yet. They were to be roasted by some of the loudest liberals of our time in commemoration of IPS' 20th year.

But instead, it was Raskin in the end who stole the show by roasting his roasters. He said he was going to ask Rep. Ron Dellums (D-Calif.) to address an IPS seminar on how to dress down in a depressed economy.

Poking fun at George McGovern's languid pace in choosing a running mate in 1972, Raskin quipped, "Ralph Nader was his 27th choice--before Bob Dylan and after Abbie Hoffman."

Raskin also added that "Ralph has seen 'Gandhi' five times trying to figure out how to get all those millions of people to work for free."

In the true spirit of political Washington's ability to laugh heartily at itself, the other roasters tried. But as former SALT negotiator Paul Warnke joked, the likes of McGovern, Dellums, author Rita Mae Brown and Nader "threw marshmallows and bouquets."

Nearly 1,000 die-hard liberals assembled at the Old Pension Building for an indoor picnic, not unlike the rallies of the late '60s. It was in sharp contrast to the uptown Republican parties of the Reagan administration.

For \$35 a head, everyone ate barbecued chicken and ribs from paper plates. Each table got one carafe of wine and one dish of a cake-and-whipped-cream concoction for dessert. The floor throbbed with bluegrass sounds, and only waiters wore tuxedos.

The most talked about no-show was Bianca Jagger, who has been associated with IPS through her volunteer work for Salvadoran refugees. Guests craned their necks at the door, and organizers kept calling her New York hotel. But the so-called roast had to soldier on without her.

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